

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**1.) Claim Amendments**

The Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 20, and 33. Claims 2-4, 6-17, 21-32, and 34-46 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 18-20, and 33 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 34-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 34-39 have been canceled.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1, 6-8, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozawa (EP 655,731). Of these claims, claims 6-8 have been canceled. The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to distinguish the claimed invention from Ozawa. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite additional details regarding the operation of the first and second noise suppressors that are not taught or suggested by Ozawa.

Claim 1 has been clarified to recite that the first noise suppressor is adapted to suppress acoustic background noise. The first noise suppressor includes means for adjusting the level of noise suppression in direct relation to a measured amplitude of the acoustic background noise, and means for adjusting the level of noise suppression in direct relation to a measured spectral variation of the acoustic background noise.

Claim 1 has been further clarified to recite that the second noise suppressor is adapted to suppress noise due to encoding and decoding distortion and transmission noise. The second noise suppressor includes means for adjusting the level of noise suppression in inverse relation to a bit rate utilized in the encoding and decoding processes.

Basis for the amendments to claim 1 are found in the originally filed specification in the following locations:

Page 11, lines 3-11: noise at first noise suppressor is acoustic background noise.

Page 12, lines 16-21; and page 14, lines 16-22: noise at second noise suppressor includes distortion due to encoding/decoding.

Page 14, lines 2-15: first noise suppressor adjusts suppression level in direct relation to amplitude and spectral variation of the background noise.

Page 14, line 23 through page 15, line 4: second noise suppressor adjusts the level of noise suppression in inverse relation to a bit rate utilized in the encoding and decoding processes.

The Applicant submits that Ozawa discloses only that his noise suppressor may be implemented for preprocessing or post processing, but does not suggest a distributed noise suppression system in which each noise suppressor is adapted to handle the different types of noise experienced on the transmission side prior to encoding and on the receiving side after decoding. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of amended claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 18, and 19 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claims 5, 18, and 19 is also respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and further in view of Romesburg (WO 97/34290). Claims 2, 4, and 15 have been canceled herein.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa, and further in view of Romesburg and Voit (US 6,075,783). Claim 3 has been canceled herein. The Applicant submits that claim 5, which depends from amended claim 1, is allowable due to the amendments to claim 1. The Examiner has cited Romesburg for disclosing a mobile

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system with a noise suppressor for suppressing acoustic noise. The Examiner has cited Voit for disclosing a PC and an Internet device. However, the combination of Ozawa, Romesburg, and Voit does not teach or suggest a distributed noise suppression system in which each noise suppressor is adapted to handle the different types of noise experienced on the transmission side prior to encoding and on the receiving side after decoding, as recited in base claim 1. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 5 are respectfully requested.

On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and further in view of Aoki, et al. (US 5,933,506). Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled herein.

On page 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Aoki, and further in view of Foulkes, et al. (US 3,560,669). Claim 11 has been canceled herein.

On page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and further in view of Dolby (US 3,665,345). Claims 12-14 have been canceled herein.

On page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa, and further in view of Suvanen, et al. (US 6,081,732). Claim 16 has been canceled herein.

On page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa, and further in view of Ferrer, et al. (US 6,115,589). Claim 17 has been canceled herein.

On page 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20-23, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa in view of Romesburg. Of these claims, claims 21-23 and 30 have been canceled herein. Independent claims 20 and 33 have been amended to recite limitations similar to amended claim 1. The Applicant submits that the combination of Ozawa and Romesburg does not teach or suggest either a mobile telephone (claim 20) or a method (claim 33) in which a plurality of noise suppressors are each adapted to handle the different types of noise experienced on the transmission side prior to encoding and on the receiving side after

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decoding. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of amended claims 20 and 33 are respectfully requested.

On page 15 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Romesburg, and further in view of Aoki. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled herein.

On page 16 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and in view of Romesburg, and Aoki, and further in view of Foulkes. Claim 26 has been canceled herein.

On page 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Romesburg, and further in view of Dolby. Claims 27-29 have been canceled herein.

On page 18 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Romesburg, and further in view of Suvanen. Claim 31 has been canceled herein.

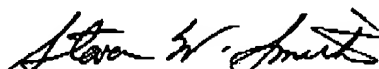
On page 19 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Romesburg, and further in view of Ferrer. Claim 32 has been canceled herein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 5, 18-20, and 33.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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